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75TH ANNIVERSARY OF TARTU TREATY. About a dozen members of the Petserimaa League picketed the Russian Embassy in Tallinn on 2 February, the 75th anniversary of the signing of the Tartu Peace Treaty, BNS reports. Under that treaty, Russia recognized Estonia's independence and pledged to make no claims on Estonian territory. The league wants the return to Estonia of the some 2,000 sq. km Petseri/Pechory region, which Russia seized after World War II. Even though the Estonian Constitution defines the country's borders in accordance with the Tartu treaty, Prime Minister Andres Tarand expressed willingness to give up territorial claims if Moscow recognized the document as valid. Russia insists that the treaty lost its validity when Estonia joined the USSR in 1940. -- Saulius Girnius, OMRI, Inc.

LATVIA PASSES LAW ON TAXES AND DUTIES. The Saeima on 2 February passed a law on taxes and duties to go into effect on 1 April, BNS reports. Taxpayers will be required to declare their income themselves and pay taxes owed. Any cash transaction exceeding 1,000 lati ($1,830) must be reflected in income declarations. Businesses, moreover, are allowed to make cash transactions of up to 3,000 lati only. Anything over this sum must be transferred by wire. -- Saulius Girnius, OMRI, Inc.

LITHUANIA TO END PRIVATIZATION FOR INVESTMENT VOUCHERS. The Lithuanian parliament on 31 January adopted a resolution invalidating as of 1 July the law on initial privatization of state property passed in 1991, BNS reported on 2 February. The law gave residents investment vouchers to purchase apartments and shares in state enterprises. As of early January, 70% of state enterprises and 78% of state capital offered for privatization had been sold. The value of the unsold property is approximately that of the unused investment vouchers, but it is expected that some vouchers will not be redeemed. -- Saulius Girnius, OMRI, Inc.